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News

Israeli settlers pull out of Elon Moreh

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (R) — Israeli settlers began pulling out of the Elon Moreh outpost on the West Bank of Jordan today. It was the first Jewish settlement to be dismantled in the 13 years of Israeli occupation. The residents, ordered out by the Supreme Court following an appeal by Arab farmers, drove to a new village several kilometres away. The settlers agreed to move out of Elon Moreh after a long dispute with the government, which invested 39 million Israeli pounds (1 million) in the new site to compensate the settlers. The settlers, members of the fanatical Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) movement, had earlier said they would remain at Elon Moreh as the government changed the legal status of the West Bank and similar evictions by court order. The Elon Moreh site was sold by the settlers last June with help from Israeli armed forces. The takeover roused an outcry in Israel and abroad, and the same court last October ruled the seizure illegal.

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Senate supports Carter on Olympics

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (R) — The Senate today voted 88-10 to urge the transfer, postponement or cancellation of the Moscow Olympics this summer in retaliation against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. In a resolution similar to one approved 386-12 by the House of Representatives last week, the Senate said that if the Moscow Games went ahead as planned, the United States should boycott them. The resolutions have no force in law but are designed to support President Carter's request that the games be transferred or boycotted if Soviet troops do not pull out of Afghanistan by Feb. 20. The U.S. Olympic Committee voted last weekend to take Mr. Carter's request to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) but stopped short of supporting an American boycott. Its officials expressed concern that a boycott would not be supported by other countries and that the effort to link the Moscow Games with the Afghan crisis could damage the Olympic movement. But they have said the U.S. committee would not go against official government policy.

Iranians smuggle out six U.S. diplomats from Iran

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (R) — Six U.S. diplomats who had hidden in the Canadian embassy in Tehran were smuggled out of Iran as the Canadians closed their mission here, U.S. officials said today.

The Canadian ambassador in Tehran, Mr. Ken Taylor, persuaded Washington and Ottawa that the diplomats should be smuggled out of Iran. Two plans were worked out — one, to have them leave by night, crossing the Turkish border by car, the other, to have them risk going through passport controls at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport with their false passports and visas, La Presse said. Mr. Taylor finally decided this week was the time to get the Americans out, without arousing suspicions about the sudden increase in embassy staff, while Iranians were preoccupied with the aftermath of their presidential election and the Soviet intervention in neighbouring Afghanistan, the report said. La Presse said, however, that the exact "consular techniques" used to get them out of Iran would probably never be disclosed. Today's disclosure explained Mrs. MacDonald's comments at a press conference last night at which she said Mr. Vance had telephoned her yesterday to thank her for Canada's help in the hostage crisis. This had included consular service to Americans leaving Iran, she said, without explaining the sort of service she meant. She also praised very highly Mr. Taylor's work in Iran. Western diplomats in Tehran were astonished tonight by the announcement from Washington that the six Americans had been smuggled out of Iran. Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, informed of the news as he left a meeting of the Revolutionary Council, told Reuters: "I don't know anything about this." He declined to make any further comment, saying reporters should ask the students holding the hostages at the occupied U.S. embassy in Tehran. Western diplomats who knew Mr. Taylor well were amazed. "We knew them very well and visited the embassy frequently but this is absolutely extraordinary," said one. Canada pulled out the staff of its embassy in Tehran yesterday but said the move was a temporary measure which did not mean a break in relations. It was taken because of "the difficult conditions and possibilities for the embassy in conducting normal business," the external affairs department said in Ottawa.

Kuwait raises oil price

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (R) — Kuwait today raised the price of its crude oil by \$1.50 a barrel, joining what seems to be a concerted move by Gulf oil producers following a similar rise in the price of Saudi Arabian oil yesterday. Kuwaiti oil minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, announced a rise to \$27.50 in the price of a barrel of Kuwaiti oil shortly after a similar price rise was announced in the United Arab Emirates. The UAE News Agency said Iraq and Qatar were also due to raise their oil prices. The move would bring the Kuwaiti price in line with that of other oil producers. JAE, Qatar and Venezuela followed Saudi Arabia last month in raising its oil price by six dollars a barrel on the eve of the price-fixing conference in Caracas to \$24 a barrel. Saudi price increase reported yesterday by the authoritative East Economic Survey (MEES) and by Japanese buyers of oil brought the price to \$26, also backdated to the beginning of the year. Saudi price move was interpreted by sources close to Saudi as an attempt to close the price gap between different OPEC oil prices preliminary to a return to a single OPEC base price.

Regional Briefs

RTOU, Jan. 29 (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri today said Sudan would never sever relations with Israel despite the normalisation of relations with Israel. President Numeiri said at a press conference about Sudan's position after the realisation of Egyptian-Israeli relations and opening of the Suez Canal. He said: "Sudan has very special relations with Egypt and we are not going to gamble with these relations." But he said he had withdrawn the Sudanese ambassador from Cairo in protest against the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. President Numeiri said: "Severing relations is one thing withdrawing ambassadors is another thing. Recalling ambassadors is for protest according to international laws and that is what we did." He did not say when he withdrew the Sudanese ambassador, who has not been seen in Cairo for several months.

IRAN, Jan. 29 (R) — Six people were executed in Tehran last night after being convicted of offences ranging from killing innocent demonstrators to bank robbery, Tehran newspapers reported today. Those executed included two police officers from eastern town of Damghan, two army officers in Tehran and two civilians. The civilians were involved in the bank robbery. The acts of the Tehran Islamic Revolutionary Court were carried out by firing squad at Evin prison last night, the papers said.

LIBYAN, Jan. 29 (R) — The Libyan Jamahiriyyah has stopped its support to republican guerrillas fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, a senior Libyan official said in Madrid last night. "We have given support to the IRA (Irish Republican Army) previously, but we no longer do so since there are talks going on," said Chahati, introduced as secretary for external communications, told a news conference. Mr. Chahati gave no details of the nature of the Libyan support for the IRA nor did he say whether he was referring to talks underway between the British government and political parties in Northern Ireland. The IRA denounced these talks. Mr. Chahati, here on a private visit, said his government was helping Basque separatist guerrillas in their Spain.

IRAN, Jan. 29 (R) — About 70,000 people from the Kurdish tribal capital of Sanandaj demonstrated in the streets today to celebrate the withdrawal of Islamic revolutionary guards from the city. Kurdish sources said. A spokesman for the Kurdish tribal leader, Sheikh Ezzeddin Hosseini, told Reuters jubilant crowds took to the streets after they heard that all the guards had been withdrawn. The withdrawal of the revolutionary guards, sent in to crush rebels fighting against the central government, followed negotiations between a government peace mission and Kurdish rebels. To press their demands for the withdrawal, 2,000 people held a sit-in in the governor's office in Sanandaj last month. Shops, schools and government offices which were closed since the start of the 1975-76 civil war, the United States emerged as Iran's leading supplier.

FRANCE, Jan. 29 (R) — French Ambassador Louis Delamare disavowed Lebanese Foreign Minister Fadi Butros last night the station of supplying arms to the war-torn country. Speaking to reporters after calling on Mr. Butros, the envoy said the talks were Franco-Lebanese relations in general, and the question of supplying Lebanon with military weapons. France, Lebanon's hereditary ally, is a traditional arms supplier to the country. But after reorganisation of the Lebanese armed forces in the wake of the 1975-76 civil war, the United States emerged as Lebanon's leading supplier.



A police official inspects the damage at the Syrian embassy in Paris after a bomb wrecked the ground floor Tuesday. The explosion killed one person and injured eight others, three seriously, according to French police. (AP wirephoto)

Islam conference ends, condemns superpowers

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 29 (R) — Islamic foreign ministers ended their emergency meeting today after attacking both superpowers for interfering in Muslim countries.

The 36 ministers called for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and agreed to withhold diplomatic recognition of the Moscow-backed government in Kabul. After a heated debate, the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) also protested against United States plans to impose economic sanctions against Iran in retaliation for the holding of American hostages in Tehran. Pakistan's foreign affairs chief, Mr. Agha Shahi, said the conference had demonstrated the cohesion of the Islamic World and that its uncompromising stand would have a far-reaching impact on events not only in the region around Afghanistan but far beyond. The conference had warned the United States that Muslim countries would not allow themselves to become pawns in superpower rivalry. Mr. Shahi told reporters that it made clear they wanted to maintain relations with the big powers on the basis of sovereign equality. The conference was called to discuss the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and the coup last month which installed the Kremlin-backed government of President Babrak Karmal. It declared the new government illegal, suspended it from the Islamic Conference Organisation and called for a diplomatic and political boycott. The debate widened to include all foreign pressures on Islamic states after Iran asked the foreign ministers to single out the United States as well as the Soviet Union for interference in its internal affairs. A spokesman said the Iranian resolution expressed the wish of the conference that "the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States would resolve their outstanding problems between themselves by peaceful means." It declared "firm opposition to any threat or use of force or any kind of intervention or interference or the imposition of economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any other Islamic country."

One man killed, eight wounded in Paris Syrian embassy blast

PARIS, Jan. 29 (Agencies) — One man was killed and eight people were injured, three of them seriously, when bomb blasts ripped through Syria's embassy today just before the arrival in Paris of the country's foreign minister. Police said the dead man was the embassy's third secretary. The two bombs exploded almost simultaneously on separate floors of the embassy in the fashionable Bois de Boulogne area of the French capital. The explosions destroyed the consular section and brought down a ceiling. Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who is also Syria's deputy premier, arrived in Paris shortly afterwards and was due to meet French officials tomorrow. The embassy often received bomb threats, but had not received any recently and therefore had not increased security, he said. The blasts came on the eve of a visit to Paris by Syria's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, who is to have talks with French leaders. Asked if he thought the attack might be connected with the minister's visit, Dr. Hayani said: "Perhaps, perhaps." Eyewitnesses said the first explosion hit the first floor near the offices of the ambassador and the consul and the second struck the ground floor in or near the office where visas are delivered. The building, which is topped by a forest of communications antennae, was seriously damaged. In Beirut, an organisation calling itself the "Front for liberating Lebanon from foreigners" has claimed responsibility for the blast. An anonymous caller telephoned Reuters's Beirut office and said that the front had carried out the bombing. It was the first time the front had been heard of. The caller said that "similar operations will take place against Lebanon's foreigners."

Syrian sources said the veteran diplomat had failed to win public support for the move from President Hafez Al Assad despite the close ties between Moscow and Damascus.

In New Delhi, where President Carter's special envoy Clark Clifford is to arrive tomorrow for talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Indian leader restated her country's opposition to the presence of foreign troops or bases in any country.

Asked if India's friendship treaty with Moscow had influenced her response to the Afghan intervention, she replied: "Friendship has nothing to do with this, we have said we do not approve of any foreign interference or presence of foreign troops or foreign bases."

Blames Muslim Brotherhood, Libya Tunisia to try Gafsa raiders before state security court

TUNIS, Jan. 29 (Agencies) — A number of raiders taken prisoner by the Tunisian security forces during the attack on the western Tunisian town of Gafsa last weekend will be tried before the state security court, according to newspaper reports here. The independent Tunisian daily "Le Temps" did not give the exact number of captives but said an advance guard of about 20 dissidents had hidden out in an old quarter of the town to await the main body of the attacking force coming from across the border. Le Temps reported that during the battle this group took refuge in the town but they were later winked out and captured by the security forces with the aid of local townspeople. Following Sunday's battle the government's forces in the region have been strengthened and road blocks set up on all roads leading to the frontier to prevent further infiltration or the escape of any stragglers from the raiding party. The Tunisian authorities are accusing the Libyan Jamahiriyyah of complicity in the weekend attack by 200 well armed raiders which left people dead. In Kuwait, Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohammad Fatturi accused the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood today with responsibility for the attack. "This group is supported by an Arab neighbouring country," Mr. Fatturi, who is attending the Islamic conference in Islamabad, said in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas. He did not elaborate.

Algerian officials yesterday disclaimed responsibility for the attack and Tunisian sources said the raiders had come through Algeria to avoid the heavily mined Tunisian-Libyan border. Tunisian sources said the attack was consistent with the proclaimed strategy of Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi and pointed to a speech he made in September 1978 in which he announced his plans to create throughout the Arab World revolutionary committees "acting openly or undercover, to seize power, promote Arab unity and solve the political problems of the Arab World."

The sources noted the politically significant date of the Gafsa attack on the second anniversary of Tunis riots which rocked President Habib Bourguiba's regime and left over 50 dead. Before the attack on Gafsa, Tunisian officials had already hinted at Libyan interference in two plane hijackings involving Tunisians who demanded the release of detained trade unionists or political activists. On Jan. 12 of last year, the anniversary of the failed merger, a Tunisian airliner was hijacked. The hijackers were Tunisians who had been living in Libya. Only two weeks ago, on Jan. 14, it was again a Tunisian with a "Libyan background" who hijacked an Alitalia flight between Rome and Tunis.

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Sad testimony

PRESIDENT Anwar Sadat, in a two-and-a-half-hour harangue before the Egyptian parliament on Monday, propounded the extraordinary view that the Israelis are honourable and trustworthy people to do business with.

Timing his peroration to coincide with the Islamic conference in Islamabad, from which Egypt was excluded, Mr. Sadat went on to lambast Arab governments. In view of the Egyptian leader's shameless infatuation with the Zionist state, such outbursts against the Arabs can only be taken as a compliment.

Even as President Sadat spoke, Israeli tanks were reported to have crossed into southern Lebanon in an apparent attempt to provoke a fight with Syria. In the occupied West Bank, Zionist settlers were moving their showcase settlement from one illegal site overlooking Nablus to another. And these are only two samples of the routine activities of the "honourable and trustworthy" Israelis of which Mr. Sadat seems not to have taken notice.

As Jordan pointed out in Mr. Marwan Al Qasem's address to the Islamabad meeting, the Palestinian people suffer daily from the depredations of Zionist occupation; this, together with the Israeli crimes against the Islamic holy places of Jerusalem, and the host of other Israeli onslaughts against the human and national rights of the Palestinian people, constitutes a continuing and chronic act of aggression far more devastating in its international consequences than the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Mr. Sadat does not see things this way, however, and his speech in parliament was sad testimony to the extent to which he has sold out Arab and Islamic interests -- and is prepared to continue selling them out in the future in order to advance the cause of Israeli expansion. His alarms about a purported threat of Soviet aggression in the Arabian Gulf region are raised without the slightest sign of any concurrent worry on his part about the likelihood of equally dangerous American pre-emptive moves in the same region. The Soviet tanks in Kabul present us with a vision of one kind of reality; Mr. Harold Brown's glib references to America's preparedness to intervene militarily in the Middle East afford us with a vision of another kind of reality.

The Islamic ministers in Islamabad took an uncompromising but commendably even-handed view of these alarming developments. Even if Egypt had not been "disinvited" to join in the conclave with Islamic and Arab representatives who once considered Egypt a vital part of their community of interests, President Sadat has more than amply demonstrated the tragic extent to which he has encamped with the enemies of Islam, of the Arabs, and, indeed, of reason and truth.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: The memory of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday becomes, every year, an occasion to remind Muslims that Islamic thought, which originated from the Koran and the Sunna, lit the road when Islam was a force behind the growth of civilisation. This Islamic thought should glow once again, to enable Muslims to feel their way out and clarify their future steps -- to organise their reactions to and their stands concerning events and set out to restore their civilised role in the light of the clear vision.

Islamic thought is a logical outcome of the belief in Islam as a creed, and as a rational force which protects Muslims from invasions of deviant thought and harmful trends, whatever their origin and whenever they take place.

Thus Islamic thought remains always comprehensive, civilised thought and not a tactical movement limited by any regional, racial or temporal considerations.

AL DUSTOUR: Muslims today face the conspiracies of the two superpowers, who are trying to suppress the awakening of the Muslim peoples, destroy their unity, plunder their wealth and dominate their resources. Today we also see here and there in the world war, dissension and famine due to people's greediness, tyranny and desire to oppress one another.

Muslims, while facing these difficult times and dreadful challenges, find no way out except by resorting to faith, unity of ranks, and jihad for the cause of God and the right. The anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad's birth should be taken as a lantern to guide humanity in its search for redemption from calamities and distress.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Films

The British Council presents a film by Michael Crichton entitled "The Great Train Robbery" (1978) starring Sean Connery, Donald Sutherland, Lesley-Anne Down and Alan Webb. The film starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at the desk.

Exhibition

An exhibition of contemporary graphic art from the centres of Hamburg and West Berlin continues at the Goethe Institute. The exhibition is running until February 2.

Jordan celebrates the birth of the Prophet

AMMAN, Jan. 29 (JNA) -- His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, today called on the Arabs to return to the teachings of Islam if they really seek to maintain their unity, since, he said, the original unity among Muslims was based on the Koran.

Prince Hassan was addressing an audience celebrating the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's birth at the Palace of Culture. It was one of a number of gatherings held throughout Jordan on the occasion, including a procession in downtown Amman and religious ceremonies held in mosques in various parts of the country.

Prince Hassan said Muslims should take lessons from the life of the Prophet and follow in his footsteps. "There is no point in holding celebrations and giving sermons on this occasion if these are not backed by good deeds that can further strengthen faith among the people," the Crown Prince said. "It is because we have diverted our attention from the teachings of the Prophet and have abandoned good will and noble morals, which constituted the basis of the Prophet's call to Islam, that we have been divided into groups, parties and scattered states."

"We have been rendered weak because we were preoccupied with our individual interests, forgetting



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Sharif (in overcoat, behind megaphone) and other dignitaries listen to an address in front of the Hussein Mosque.

the imminent danger threatening our usurped holy shrines and forgetting our duty to restore them... It has become incumbent upon us now to link our heritage with contemporary thinking in order to achieve our goals.

The Crown Prince called on Muslims everywhere to transcend their differences and unite their efforts with the aim of restoring their rights.

Today's procession, through the main streets of Amman, attracted a large crowd, and was accompanied by scouts and the brass

band of the Public Security Directorate.

At the head of the procession were the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mr. Kamel Sharif; the Governor of Amman, Mr. Yahya Al Musli, and heads of government departments.

The procession ended at the Hussein Mosque, where the crowds heard a sermon on the life and deeds of the Prophet.

Mr. Kamel Sharif also spoke at the Palace of Culture celebrations. He reminded his audience of His



Boy scouts at the head of the procession gather in front of the mosque, carrying banners in front of the Dome of the Rock.

Majesty King Hussein's saying, "we have no dignity without our Islamic faith and heritage -- and our future in this land and our fate depend on the degree of our adherence to the principles of Islam and our commitment to our highest ideals."

The Chief Justice, Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan, said that humanity is afflicted with disturbances, conflict and instability, and will not surmount them unless it follows the divine path which establishes an equilibrium between individual and collective interests.

without subsuming one to the other.

He noted that Muslims can take from other civilisations all that is positive, leaving out what is negative and not in conformity with Islam.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Mohammad Nouri Shafiq, told the gathering that at this critical time the need is evident for a scientific approach to the study of the problems of Islamic society and to working out appropriate solutions for them. These solutions should be in conformity with the Islamic

heritage and fit requirements of our modern science characterised by revolutionary civilisation.

The ceremony was the prime minister, the upper house of parliament, the chief of the National Council, the chief cabinet members, the staff, top government military officers, and the diplomatic corps.

RSS seeks optimum building materials for Jord

By Ron Cathell
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Jan. 29 -- A special group of people at the Royal Scientific Society are working very hard, in coordination with the private sector and government authorities, to make Jordan a safer and more economical place to live.

They make up the Building Materials Research Centre (BMRC) which is now in its third year of operation. It has a staff of 45, half of whom are engineers, a quarter are technicians and another quarter are in administration.

Though their work may not be known to the average citizen, it will effect everyone whether at work, at school, at home or on the road. The purpose of the BMRC is to apply its research to develop low-cost high-quality building materials, such as tougher, more durable asphalt or stronger concrete.

When the BMRC completes its study on improving asphalt to meet Jordan's needs, Mayor Isam Ajlouni has promised to use the information and repave nearly all the roads in Amman.

To reduce the cost of building products, the BMRC suggests how local, readily available raw materials can be utilised in the products' manufacture instead of either imported materials or materials from areas in Jordan far from the site of manufacture.

For example, the BMRC is researching the practicability of making concrete in Aqaba using granite as an aggregate (crushed rock) because the rock is plentiful in the region.

In Amman, limestone is plentiful and could be used as an aggregate and in Irbid basalt is plentiful. So the BMRC is testing samples of the different mixes of concrete to determine their characteristics and how each can be used most effectively.

"Our basic objective is to improve building materials, structures and highways while reducing costs by employing local material," Dr. Ruhi Sharif, director of the BMRC, told the Jordan Times.

"We do this through quality control, by testing materials in our labs and by applying practical

research geared to solving the needs in Jordan," he said.

The BMRC's approach is not to just find a problem and go to work on solving it. "We isolate a problem and work with those involved with it to find a solution using our technical cooperation," Dr. Sharif said.

Often, by isolating one problem, other problems are discovered. For example, the BMRC noticed that cracks occur frequently in newly surfaced roads. When the BMRC investigated it found that specifications for proper mixture of asphalt were out-dated and didn't meet current requirements for increased traffic and heavy trucks. So the BMRC sought the help of authorities responsible, to both get the asphalt mix to meet Jordan's needs as well as to update all specifications of building materials in the country.

This has involved the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Public Works and the Amman Municipality. The Housing Bank is also sharing the expense of work on updating specifications to ensure better structures. The bank has an interest at stake. It wouldn't want a homeowner to stop making payments because his roof collapsed after four years.

But sometimes the BMRC has its own problems. Though most responsible authorities welcome help from the special RSS group, others are a bit reluctant to cooperate because they feel the BMRC may be encroaching on their authority. So the BMRC must explain that its only interest is improving structures for the benefit of the people. It realises that some authorities have engineers for the kind of research the BMRC specialises in. But often these engineers are overworked with administrative duties and don't have time for research and testing materials.

"We want them to know we have a full-time staff for this and we are only their technical arms," Dr. Sharif said. "They are welcome to use our labs as if they were theirs."

A major project of the BMRC is to establish new specifications for building materials. The project will take at least two years of



This concrete block in a giant vice begins to crumble under high pressure at the BMRC lab. The test analyses the effect different kinds of aggregate have on the strength of concrete.

working in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Public Works.

When completed, the specifications will be used by engineers and contractors for structural design choice of materials. The specifications will ensure that certain bricks, for example, will be of the right size and strength to be used in a structural wall.

In the project to find the best asphalt mix for Jordan, laboratory tests are done to analyse several different mixtures of tar, ethylene and aggregate to determine which mixture can best meet Jordan's varied requirements. Experiments are based on American specifications for asphalt, but also take into account Jordan's widely varying temperatures, road use by both private cars and multi-ton trucks, and long periods when water remains on the surface because of poor drainage.

Again, even as the BMRC isolates one problem another is revealed. The major cause of asphalt cracking is poor drainage, which is the result of inadequate design because building regulations are outdated.

When water is allowed to stand on asphalt for long periods it even-

tually breaks down the composition, seeps through and drains under the surface. This erodes soil and weakens the support for the asphalt. So part of the BMRC's research on the project will result in recommendations for better regulations on road design.

The BMRC is also considering a recent proposal from the University of Jordan to conduct research aimed at producing skid-resistant asphalt which could help to reduce the number of accidents. The proposal has generated a lot of interest but no decision has yet been taken.

When the BMRC started in July, 1977, its first, and continuing, project was to develop material specifications and design for low-cost housing. The idea is to produce inexpensive, strong and safe housing for low income people, which can be built quickly and without complications.

The project was initiated with West German aid of about \$1 million that was granted on condition that Jordan purchase pre-cast building materials for the houses from West Germany--according to the specifications established by the RSS. So far, the BMRC has built four model low-cost houses and will build two more. Eventually, the work will lead to allow income housing development, probably in the Amman region.

Another quality control project involves analysing aggregate that comes from several different quarries in the country. The research is being conducted in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority, which is responsible for mineral resources and mining in Jordan. The purpose is to determine the aggregates that work best in concrete mixes for particular purposes.

In another research project, the BMRC is testing the insulation properties of building materials. This work is being done by request of the Jordanian Engineer's Association which will compile the results and make them available to all engineers in the country. The information will indicate the insulation value of various building materials.

Also of considerable value to engineers is the BMRC's soil analysis research, particularly of the varying properties of clay from different parts of the country. The study will focus on the Amman and Irbid areas first.

The three-year project is being conducted in cooperation with the Building Research Establishment in the U.K. The aim of the research is to provide engineers with a geographical soil map depicting the particular properties of the clay in a given area. With this information, engineers will be able to design foundations that are neither too strong or not strong enough in compensating for unstable clay surfaces.

Another research project involving the private sector aims at updating all information on cement factories in the Arab World. The study will include a complete economic survey on marketing, production and consumption.

This will be conducted by the

RSS's economic department study will also include on the quality of products, different factories, manufacturing requirements, with equipment and technical aspects. This being conducted on the Union of Arab Countries.

Certainly one of important applied projects of the BMRC is control testing of cement materials made in Jordan. The BMRC is acting as an arm of the Ministry and Trade which is to ensure that material made according to specifications.

The idea is to ensure manufacture of pipes, tiles, beams and all off strictly according to specifications. The BMRC will begin taking samples of different manufacture quality. Before doing begun to warn manufacturers they must comply with specifications. While information, the BMRC technical advice on how to improve quality and quantity.

The manufacturers shown great appreciation of the BMRC's effort.

All test results on it will be given to the ministry which will decide whether the manufacturer is producing to the specifications or then be up to the ministry to take appropriate action.

With this kind of information among government, RSS and the private sector should become a safe and expensive place to live.



Asphalt samples are mixed in this giant blender -- much according to a certain recipe.



A sample of asphalt tar is refined into its basic components to determine its adhesive quality.

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England down New South Wales

CANBERRA, Australia, Jan. 29 (AP)—England opening batsman Wayne Larkins forced his way back into test contention with a fighting 90 to steer England to a surprise eight wicket win over New South Wales on the final day of their three-day match here today. Larkins may have played his way into the England team for the third test against Australia in Melbourne on Feb. 1 after today's innings.

The tourists grabbed victory with 2.4 overs left of the final 20 overs in the last hour after spendings most of the match on the defensive. England were set 250 runs to win in 205 minutes and after a slow start the scoring rate accelerated to give them an easy victory. New South Wales resumed one for 113 in their second innings after England were all out for 203 yesterday in reply to New South Wales' first innings score of seven declared for 212.

Doug Walters, New South Wales skipper, was planning to declare his innings around lunch time but tight bowling by England delayed the closure until half an hour after the interval. Spinners Derek Underwood and John Emburey were mainly responsible for fining down the scoring rate and their combined 48 overs cost only 104 runs. England seemed intent on only getting batting practice in the first overs of their innings with openers Larkins and Geoff Boycott taking one hour to score the first 28 runs.

After his failure in the first innings Larkins was promoted to open with Boycott and the tactic paid off for England with the Northhamshire batsman outplaying his veteran partner. England lost their first wicket in the 43rd over when Boycott was caught by Peter Toohey at mid-off from the bowling of off-spinner Graeme Beard for 51 scored in 138 minutes.

The dismissal made England one for 124 and a win became a distinct possibility. The last 20 overs started with England needing to score another 125 runs to win with Graham Gooch joining Larkins. The pair slammed the state bowling adding 45 runs in the next eight overs until Larkins dismissal. Larkins added nearly three hours for his 90 hitting nine boundaries for his highest score since 51 last November. Larkins has managed few chances to prove himself on the tour but he grasped his last opportunity today with eagerness to probably edge Derek Randall all out of a test place.

Victory looks certain for West Indies

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan. 29 (AP)—Australia faced defeat on the final day of the third test against the West Indies at Adelaide Oval here today. Set the monumental task of scoring 574 runs in 545 minutes in its second innings to win. Australia had posted 131 for seven at the close of the fourth day. The West Indies batted through its second innings to 448 with Alvin Kallicharman scoring 106 to record his seventh test century. West Indies, 328 in the first innings, had led by 125 after dismissing Australia for 203. Victory to the West Indies looks certain and when it comes it will be sweet revenge for captain Clive Lloyd who led the team when it suffered a 5-1 defeat to Australia in 1975-76. But Lloyd was in an unbeatable position in the current series with a one nil lead before this final test.

Ian Chappell failed again. Dismissed for two in the first innings he was out in the second innings after one scoring stroke. It was dangerous hook shot off Michael Holding which went perilously close to wicketkeeper Derek Murray and on to the fine leg boundary. Holding's next delivery was a similar ball at which Chappell swung, got a fine edge and was caught by Murray.

Greg Chappell played a spectacular short-lived innings for 31

before being trapped by Colin Croft bowling round the wicket. Bruce Laird has played a shot into the cover and Chappell, then six, was almost run out when holding through down the stumps at the strikers end. Laird again showed his undoubted courage by defying the bowling for 14 minutes for his 36 runs. The West Indies, which began its second innings with an overnight score of 303 for four today, added 145 runs for the loss of the six remaining wickets.

Meeting to discuss prizes for athletes

LONDON, Jan. 29 (R)—British track and field officials said yesterday they would propose at the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) congress in Moscow in July that athletes be paid cash prizes. Current IAAF rules restrict athletes to receiving prizes up to the value of \$250.

The British Amateur Athletic Board's (BAAB) proposals to change longstanding amateur rules would allow athletes to receive cash prizes, except in international matches, and to receive a return from advertising if the money is paid through the national athletics body. David Shaw, secretary of the BAAB, said: "This represents a jump forward but our main concern is that it should be a controlled jump. It is essential that in any move towards so-called open athletics that governing bodies keep control."

The BAAB has avoided any reference to the money limits which could be paid to athletes. "All we are trying to do at the moment is to get the subject an international airing," Shaw added. "It could be that in Moscow delegates to the IAAF will say that they are well satisfied with what exists. But it will be useful to establish which way we are going."

The BAAB have suggested that the IAAF should lay down the limits on prize money, that it should not apply to international appearances and that control would be needed to ensure athletes did not desert their country's interests in favour of lucrative meetings. On the question of appearance money Shaw said: "It is something of an emotive issue. We are looking to set up a situation where it is reduced in significance even if it cannot be eradicated."

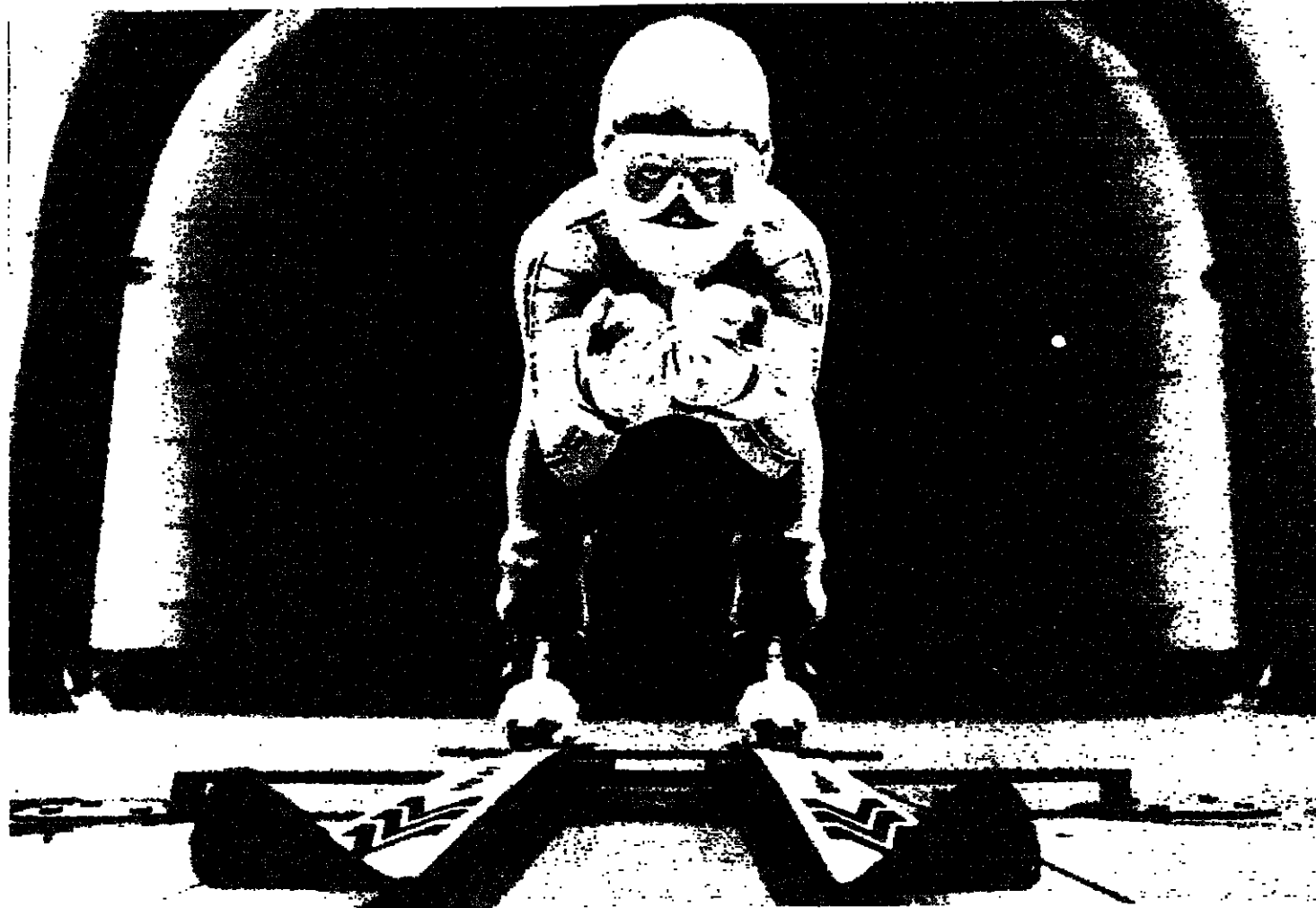
Rest day at World Bowls

MELBOURNE, Jan. 29 (R)—Competitors in the World Bowls Championships here had a rest day today, but English champion David Bryant was not far from the sport. He was guest of a local bowls manufacturing company and inspected their factory. "I have had a quiet day—not even any yoga," Bryant said. He is unbeaten after ten matches in the singles championship and is favourite to win the gold medal. Play resumes tomorrow.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

India 205 for five

CALCUTTA, Jan. 29 (R)—Sandeep Patil, playing in his second test, was top scorer with 62 as India methodically built up a score of 205 for five on the opening day of the sixth and final cricket test against Pakistan here today. Sandeep dominated a fifth wicket partnership of 88 with Yashpal Sharma, who was not out on 28 at the close but was woefully unenterprising. At one stage he spent 51 minutes without scoring. India, though already assured of victory in the series with a 2-0 lead, ground along through the day with scores of 79, 61 and 65 in the three two-hour sessions. After Sunil Gavaskar and Chetan Chauhan had set them off with an opening stand of 48, they slid to 99 for four, but Patil and Sharma foiled Pakistan's hopes of bringing about a collapse.



The skiers are locked into their skis and wind blows from the machine: West German downhill ski internationals have been practising the best way of crouching in the wind tunnel of a Stuttgart car company. While the wind blows strongly against their helmets and glasses, they can read from a dynamometer how much resistance they are giving. The more streamlined their position, the better their chances of winning a medal. The final section of the Olympic downhill race in particular requires stability and an ideal posture. The ski races race downhill at speeds of about 140 kilometres per hour, and seconds can make all the difference between victory and defeat. In the windtunnel, young German skier Sepp Wildgruber managed to remain standing at a wind speed of 255 kms per hour. (Dad photo)

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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30, 1980

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan how to have more harmony at home. Don't berate others so much since the ill-finding could be partly due to your own actions.

AURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Look to those who are experienced than you for the advice you need now. Be sure to handle correspondence wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A financial affair has you worried in the morning but a closer inspection later in the day uncovers more money than you need now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A good time goes after what you most desire and there's a good chance you will gain your aims.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Know what your true ambitions are and work hard to attain them. Keep personal and business affairs separate for best results.

LIBRA (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) It is best to make long-range plans to gain your true aims. Take time to repay old obligations and express goodwill.

SCORPIO (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Outside activities can be launched at this time if you take a good friend with you. Find one who has an eye on your assets.

SAGITTARIUS (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have fine ideas but do nothing about them until another day. Show others that you are an intelligent person.

CAPRICORN (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to handle important obligations early in the day for best results. No risks with your health.

AQUARIUS (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to the complaints of an associate in morning and handle matters with reason. Think logically.

PISCES (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) The morning begins why at your work with little accomplished, but you make up for lost time as the day progresses.

ISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't neglect correspondence, personal or business, early in the day, then you'll have free time for social activities later.

Royal collection on display



LONDON—A visitor pauses to admire these magnificent decorative vases that are part of the royal collection of Sevres porcelain now on display to the public at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. This exhibition, comprising some 350 pieces of the finest eighteenth-century Sevres porcelain in the world, is the first one to be staged. The collection was formed by King George IV between 1783 and 1830, and includes a broad selection of pieces from table services made for the French Royal Family and its court. Included in the exhibition are paintings, drawings and tapestries that would have provided the setting for the porcelain in France in the eighteenth century, as they still do in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. (Col photo)

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SESC

WUNDE

NOPPIL

APITOE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O" IN A "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BURLY PENCE JOYOUS BRANDY

Answer: What they seldom are on babies — "DRY-PERS"

THE Daily Crossword

by John H. Hales

ACROSS	28 Ireland	54 Laborer of old	21 Hair
1 Mongolian	33 Alt. comb.	25 Lace edging	
6 Doorway	34 Dental filling	27 Language structure	
10 Tennis match: abbr.	35 Oppressive	62 Astrigent	
14 By oneself	37 Disgust	63 Burden	28 Express
15 Environmental study: abbr.	40 Rabbitt's tail	65 Ingenious	29 Linear unit
16 Landed	41 Idaho city	67 Suit to —	30 Strauss' beautiful river
17 Dish	42 French cleric	68 Mischief	31 Consume
18 Biblical pronoun	43 Francoun	69 British carbine	32 Assumed name
19 Silent	44 Asian mountain system	70 Mountain pool	33 Willow
20 Vehicles	45 Soap plant	71 Distributed	34 "— was I ere..."
22 Poetic preposition	46 God: Fr.		35 Bread end
23 Maison head	48 Guard		36 Friend: Fr.
24 Uppermost	50 Small		37 Relative
26 Reacted derisively	53 Wheel mark		38 Harmonized of atm.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

FOOT RATED SALE

1896 HORROR ASIAN

VEST OBLIQUE

QUEST ROOM APPROX

URGENT TELETYPE

ALWAYS RAKED FLOOD

VIOLET RAKED FLOOD

EMU FEWER LAIRD

RESOLVED LONG

FOOD LINGAGE

WOEFUL AONE TIEA

OVERWINDS SYMBOL

LOAN EVILIAN BRUE

FEED BELLS EYED

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Brown outlines arguments for big increase in U.S. defence spending

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (R) — The United States faces almost unprecedented military challenges around the world and may well be at a critical turning point in its history, Defence Secretary Harold Brown said today.

"We must now decide whether we intend to remain the strongest nation in the world," Mr. Brown said as he outlined the Carter administration's arguments for \$1,000 billion increase in defence spending over the next five years.

"The alternative is to let ourselves slip into inferiority, into a position of weakness in a harsh world where principles unsupported by power are victimised, and to become a nation with more of a past than a future," he told the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Brown said growing Soviet power had been accompanied by an increased readiness by the Kremlin to project its influence beyond traditional borders, especially with its "blatant and brutal invasion" of Afghanistan.

"As a result of these developments, our defence establishment could be faced with an almost unprecedented number of demands, and some of these demands could arise more or less

simultaneously," Mr. Brown said. His assessment, one of the gloomiest in years, was presented in his annual report to the house committee on the military position of the U.S.

The document argued the administration's case for raising defence spending by \$15 billion to a record \$142.7 billion for the financial year beginning next October.

Mr. Brown said the president's budget announced yesterday was "right and necessary for the security of our country."

The plan emphasises developing forces which could be rushed to such potential trouble spots as the Gulf, the major passageway for oil exports to the West.

It also more than meets a pledge by Mr. Carter to increase U.S. spending for the NATO alliance by three per cent to keep allied forces ready for any Soviet assault on Western Europe.

The budget also provides for heavy spending on the new MX

mobile missile system designed to keep the U.S. arsenal safe from a Soviet knockout blow, even though the MX plan may have to be changed if the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) is not ratified by Congress.

President Carter temporarily withdrew SALT II from Senate consideration after the Soviet move into Afghanistan last month.

Mr. Brown said a Soviet move to build its nuclear forces beyond the SALT II limits would force the United States to increase its own strategic arsenal.

In general, he said, the Soviet Union spent 85 per cent more than the United States in 1979 on research, weapons and other hardware purchases, and military construction.

He said Soviet forces in the Far East were "geographically positioned, exercised and apparently designed for offensive operations," though he said not all were ready for combat.

"We can no longer preclude their being able to operate simultaneously in several parts of the world," Mr. Brown said.

The U.S. spending plan would provide for 1,700 new planes and 97 new ships over the next five years.

Several new vessels would be floating depots filled with arms and ammunition which would be stationed in readiness near the

Gulf, for example.

Whenever major fighting broke out or appeared imminent, U.S. marine and army troops would be flown quickly to areas near the depots and pick up their fighting gear.

Mr. Brown said the United States had made similar plans with NATO allies to deal with the possibility of Soviet attack on Europe.

Mr. Brown made these points about specific areas:

Middle East — "The region has become a breeding ground for internal upheaval — for war, terrorism and subversion. Temporary disruptions or a more permanent decline in the supply of oil from the Gulf could easily occur as a consequence. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, its footholds in South Yemen and the Horn of Africa, and the Soviet naval presence in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean only make a volatile situation potentially more explosive."

Iran — "The country in which U.S. hostages have been held for nearly three months" has reached a stage of revolutionary chaos... some of its provinces are in open revolt. Its production and export of oil could be interrupted at any moment."

Africa — Soviet, East European and Cuban forces now operate in more than 20 African nations. There is a continuing danger of more internal strife to come.

Marchers will be prepared to wait two days at Thai border

BANGKOK, Jan. 29 (R) — The chief organiser of an attempt to cross the Thai border into Kampuchea next week with emergency food supplies said today the chances of success were not high.

The Vietnam-backed regime in Phnom Penh has denounced the planned march by French doctors and international personalities as a plot to denigrate its attempts to restore normality to the war-torn country.

Chief organiser of the relief attempt, French doctor Jean Malhuret, told Reuters that in view of the Kampuchean reaction, "I do not think the chances of them letting us in are very high."

The marchers are expected to include American singer Joan Baez, Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg, British Member of Parliament Winston Churchill and Northern Ireland's Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Corrigan.

Dr. Malhuret said the marchers would head for the border on Wednesday and were prepared to

wait there for two days.

If they were not given permission to enter Kampuchea, the 200 tons of food would be turned over to the Thai Red Cross for distribution among Kampuchean refugees and Thais displaced from their homes by border fighting.

Dr. Malhuret added that Joan Baez would give a concert in Bangkok on Feb. 9 to raise money for the Thai Red Cross.

The march was organised following reports that food relief sent to Kampuchea was piled up undistributed in warehouses.

Cossiga calls for confidence vote over anti-terrorist steps

ROME, Jan. 29 (R) — Italian Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga called in parliament yesterday for a vote of confidence to clear the way for approval of the government's new anti-terrorist measures.

The Chamber of Deputies had debated a package of anti-terrorist measures for five days but approval was blocked by 7,000 amendments tabled by the Radical Party.

The measures were passed as a decree on Dec. 14 but have to be confirmed by parliament within 60 days to become law.

The decree gives police wider powers to arrest, interrogate and hold suspects, increases sentences for political crimes and extends the pre-trial detention limit from four to 12 years.

Mr. Cossiga said these measures were urgently needed to protect Italy's democratic order and confront a grave threat against the republic.

With time running out, Mr. Cossiga said he decided to ask parliament for a vote of confidence on the measures.



Senator Kennedy during earlier campaign speech (Gamma photo)

Kennedy raps Carter in pro-Israeli speech

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (R) — Senator Edward Kennedy, after making a major speech yesterday in Washington to boost his bid for the U.S. presidency, flew here to attack the Carter administration's record on Israel.

Addressing American Jewish leaders, he accused President Carter of following an incoherent, inconsistent, insensitive and incompetent Middle East policy.

He told the council of presidents of major American Jewish organisations that President Carter had an on-again off-again flirtation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and said: "No member of a Kennedy administration would ever negotiate or in any way deal with representatives of a PLO committed to the destruction of Israel."

He said he believed the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan River would become a pro-Soviet state in what he described as "the energy heartland of the world."

Senator Kennedy chided the Carter administration for criticising Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and added: "I have never heard (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat described... as stubborn or intransigent."

The Senator, in his strong pro-Israeli speech, criticised the Carter administration for continuing to call the old city of Jerusalem "occupied territory."

He said: "I recognise the millennia Jewish identification with the city of David, and I am committed to both an undivided Jerusalem and an Israel with secure, defensible and recognised borders."

Senator Kennedy declared: "Israel is not just a Jewish issue. It is a moral and security issue for all

Americans. He attacked President Carter for not quickly acknowledging that Israel had nothing to do with forcing the resignation of U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young for meeting secretly with representatives of the PLO.

This led to tension between American Jews and blacks, he said adding: "I was heart sick over the intolerance bred of administration insensitivity and incompetence."

In the Washington speech, Senator Kennedy accused President Carter of being weak with the Soviet Union and called for sweeping price controls to halt inflation.

The Senator, who once held a two-to-one lead over the president for the 1980 Democratic Party nomination but who has sunk well below Mr. Carter in recent weeks, said in what was billed as a major campaign speech: "I have only just begun to fight."

He also said Carter policies might have led to the taking of American hostages in Iran. He urged the administration to call for a U.N. investigation into the Iranian revolutionary government's complaints against the deposed Shah as a means of resolving the hostage crisis.

Calling President Carter's fight against inflation a failure, Mr. Kennedy said in his speech at Georgetown University: "There is only one recourse. The president should impose an immediate six-month freeze on inflation."

He explained that this would include mandatory controls as long as necessary on prices and wages, profits, dividends, interest rates and rents.

The Senator, whose political fortunes began to decline when he publicly criticised the ex-Shah at the height of the hostage crisis, said he had no apologies to make for his sweeping criticisms of the Carter position on Afghanistan.

Saying that Americans must openly discuss foreign crises today just as they did when the Nazis were sweeping across Europe, Mr. Kennedy said:

"I make no apology for raising questions about the Carter doctrine" of opposing Soviet expansion into the Gulf area.

He agreed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was brutal aggression. "But this is really the gravest threat to peace since World War II," he asked.

On Iran, Mr. Kennedy said: "This is a crisis that never should have happened."

"In the clearest terms, the administration was warned that the admission of the Shah (to the United States for medical treatment) would provoke retaliation in Tehran. President Carter considered those warnings and rejected them in secret."

Mr. Kennedy said it was time for the United States to seek a way out of the hostage crisis by supporting creation of a U.N. commission to investigate Iran's grievances against the Shah.

World News Briefs

WELLINGTON, Jan. 29 (R) — The Soviet Union has told the New Zealand ambassador in Moscow, Mr. Jim Weir, to leave the country within the next few days, Acting Prime Minister Brian Talboys said today. It has also cancelled its approval of the appointment of his successor, Mr. Roger Peren, he said. New Zealand last week expelled Soviet Ambassador Vsevolod Sofinsky, saying he was personally involved in transferring Soviet funds to New Zealand's Socialist Unity Party, which is closely aligned with Moscow.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29 (R) — Comedian Jimmy Durante, who was a star of films, television, Broadway musicals and night clubs, died here today at the age of 86, a hospital spokesman said. Mr. Durante, known as "Schnozzle" because of his big nose, began in show business 68 years ago. In his heavy New York accent, he became known for his catchphrases, such as "Stop da music" and "I got a million of em" (jokes). He entered hospital here on Jan. 7 with pneumonia, a form of pneumonia, and was only semi-conscious much of the time. He had been confined to a wheelchair for the past seven years after having a stroke, which forced him to retire from show business. Mr. Durante lived in a large house in the fashionable Beverly Hills area of Los Angeles with his second wife, Margie. His first, Jeanne, died in 1945.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (R) — A federal judge has ordered the government to return the passport of former secret agent Mr. Philip Agee, which was revoked after his disclosures about covert U.S. operations abroad. Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled yesterday that a regulation relied on by the State Department to revoke Mr. Agee's passport in December had not been authorised by Congress. Mr. Agee, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) who has since become a vehement critic of its activities, filed the suit in an effort to force the State Department to restore his passport. The state Department claimed that Mr. Agee's activities abroad were damaging to U.S. security. But lawyers for Mr. Agee, who lives in Hamburg, West Germany, charged that his passport had been revoked to penalise him for criticism of U.S. policies. He has written a book several articles exposing the CIA's clandestine operations and recently proposed exchanging CIA files on Iran for the hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The Justice Department is expected to ask Judge Gesell today to delay implementation of his order pending further legal moves by the government.

GENEVA, Jan. 29 (R) — Developing countries face a combined balance of payments deficit of \$50 to \$55 billion within two years, a senior United Nations official concerned with promoting Third World trade said yesterday. Mr. Gamani Corea, secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), told a meeting in Geneva the international community had to "dramatically and drastically" strengthen developing countries' powers to cope with the gap between their imports and exports. Present facilities fell grossly short of needs, he said. Mr. Corea was addressing the opening of an eight-day UNCTAD meeting of experts from some 100 countries to draft proposals for the organisation's contribution to a new development strategy during this decade. An UNCTAD document before the meeting suggested the experts should consider some form of international tax to help developing countries and gain revenue from multinational firms.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (R) — Two more major oil firms, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and Shell Oil Company, have reported sharply higher 1979 profits, in line with increases already reported by three other big oil companies. Shell's fourth quarter profits jumped 72 per cent from the same period a year earlier, while ARCO's increased 54 per cent. ARCO said its fourth quarter profits rose to \$343 million from \$222.6 million a year earlier, while revenues increased 54.4 per cent to \$5.05 billion. Shell, the second largest American refiner and part of the Royal Dutch/Shell group of companies, said its quarter profits totalled \$131.2 million, up from \$192.3 million a year earlier. Revenues rose 47 per cent to \$4.3 billion.

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 29 (R) — Soviet spies are known to have infiltrated the U.N. secretariat and the United States is monitoring the situation closely, a spokeswoman for the U.S. mission said yesterday. She was replying to questions about a statement by a former Soviet U.N. under-secretary-general, Mr. Arkady Shvchenko, that some 300 Soviet U.N. diplomats and officials were agents for either the KGB (state security) or the GRU (military intelligence). Mr. Shvchenko, who was the most senior Soviet member of the U.N. secretariat when he defected in April 1978, said in a television interview Sunday night that about half the Soviet members of the U.N. community were involved in intelligence work. The U.S. spokeswoman, Ms. Jill Schuker, told reporters: "We are aware that Soviet intelligence has been successful in infiltrating officers into the secretariat. The Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are monitoring and have been monitoring this situation carefully."

OBERLIN, Ohio, Jan. 29 (R) — Disc jockey Scott Miller yesterday gave up his role as a voluntary hostage after 50 days locked in a radio station to show sympathy with 50 Americans held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran. Mr. Miller had tried to copy the experiences of the hostages. He was tied up for three hours a day, slept on the floor, did not shower or exercise, and had no contact with his wife. "But guess I only suffered ten per cent of what the real hostages are going through," said Mr. Miller, 26, when he emerged bearded and dishevelled from his self-imposed captivity at station WBOL in Oberlin, a rural town outside Cleveland. He originally declared he would stay in the country music station until all the hostages were freed. But he decided last week to give up after 50 days — one day for each hostage. The hostages in Tehran have now been held by Iranian militants for 86 days.

France, India agree to hold regular summits

NEW DELHI, Jan. 29 (R) — France and India, reacting to world tension over the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, said today they would hold regular summit meetings in an effort to contribute to peace and international cooperation.

A communique issued after talks between Indian Premier Indira Gandhi and visiting French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing also said the two leaders would take all necessary steps to defuse current tensions.

The meetings would take place alternatively in France and India, the communique said without specifying how frequently.

President Giscard d'Estaing, the first French head of state to come to India, leaves New Delhi today to address Indian bankers and industrialists in Bombay before returning to Paris at the end of a five-day official visit to the country.

He held extensive talks with Mrs. Gandhi on world problems, including the Afghan crisis and its implications for Southwest Asia.

In a solemn declaration two days ago, they called on all countries, "particularly the most powerful ones," to recognise the gravity of the situation and refrain from "any action which could intensify great power rivalry and bring back the cold war."

Today's communique said peace and international security could be based only on respect for

the sovereignty of all states and the right of each nation to determine its own destiny.

The two sides last night signed seven cooperation agreements including one to set up a giant aluminium complex in the eastern Indian state of Orissa with French financial and technical assistance.

Paris will also provide loans and credits totalling \$250 million to help finance Indian imports from France and development projects, part of which will go to the aluminium complex.

The other protocols included one for cooperation in agriculture and rural development and others on coal mining, renewable energy, ocean science and technology and petrochemicals and fertilisers.



President Giscard d'Estaing

With battery-powered cars, electronic wizardry

New York Auto Show underway

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (R) — Electricity, as a means of power and as an aid to driving, is prominently displayed at the 1980 New York Automobile Show that opened here on the weekend.

The show offers car buffs a look at scores of new cars ranging from tiny, fuel-efficient "economy" models to some of the most luxurious and expensive cars on the market.

Battery-powered cars—one a prototype and the other already in production—are two of the attractions of the show while the wizardry of solid-state electronics seems to be virtually everywhere.

The "Microcar," which looks like a solidly-built, two seat tri-cycle, is making its debut at the show as an electric-powered alternative vehicle for short-range trips.

The battery-powered car, about the size of a golf cart but made of light-weight tubular steel, can go about 48 kilometres before recharging, which is done by simply plugging it into a regular household electrical outlet.

The car's makers, from nearby Long Island, say that two of its obvious limitations—its range and top speed of 32 kilometres per hour—make it an extremely practical "local use" vehicle. Its basic price, \$1,600, and low operational costs—"pennies per mile"—also make it attractive.

The Chevrolet division of General Motors also has an electric car on display, an "Electrovette," which is basically a battery-powered version of its tiny Vega model.

A company source said the car, which can go as far as 160 kilometres at highway speeds without recharging, is still more than five years away from actual production.

Almost every car maker at the show has taken advantage in one way or another of the miracles of modern electronics, using tiny integrated circuits in a wide variety of standard and optional equipment.

Most manufacturers, at least on their more expensive models, now use advanced electronic circuitry to deliver a precisely-timed spark to the engine and many also employ electronic fuel-injection systems.

Most American car companies also offer various forms of space-age electronic dials and gadgetry for "greater confidence and driving convenience."

Some expensive models have "mini-computer" micro-circuits with sensors that monitor various functions of the car—air-fuel ratio, timing, manifold pressure, and so on.

Inside, most American makers are rapidly replacing traditional gauges with lighted digital read-outs.

Many are also offering "electronic message centres" that provide instantaneous information on speed, distance travelled, fuel consumed, elapsed time of journey, average speed, time of day, estimated time of arrival and even the distance left before the fuel runs out.

Several models also offer an optional "electronic entry" system, in which the car doors and boot can be opened from outside merely by pushing several buttons in a pre-set sequence.

The show, which runs until Feb. 3, offers little new in terms of styling and design, although the convertible top appears to be making a come-back of sorts.

Several American companies are displaying versions of one or more of their popular models with immovable roofs made to look exactly like convertible tops, including the puffy, ribbed appearance of the old fabric-covered cars.

Because American car makers no longer make convertible-top cars, there are several companies at the show that specialise in turning standard versions of popular models into "customised" convertibles.

Two foreign manufacturers are

also displaying convertibles.

Volkswagen is showing a folding-top version of its extremely popular Golf model and Triumph is giving prominent attention to two top-down TR7s.

The show also offers its usual conglomeration of sales gimmicks. There are dozens of scantily-clad models, at least two talking robots and various cut-away displays of cars and engines. One firm, recognising the latest fad sweeping the country, has two "roller disco" dancers attracting people to its display area.

Russians face prospect of big cut in meat supplies

By Alan Philips

MOSCOW—With a shrug of her shoulders, the Russian housewife is ready to bear the brunt of President Carter's anger over Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The Russians, already used to queuing in crowded butcher shops, face the prospect of a major reduction in meat supplies this year from between nine to 11 per cent due to the American grain embargo.

Washington's ban on the sale of 17 million tonnes of animal feed to the Soviet Union was part of a package of measures—ranging from the expulsion of Soviet diplomats from New York to halting scientific exchanges—aimed at persuading Moscow to withdraw its estimated 80,000 troops from Afghanistan.

But though the grain embargo hits at the Soviet economy's weak point—agriculture—few people think it will sway the Kremlin from its decision.

What appears certain is that it will hit the hard-pressed Soviet consumer's meat supplies, with the effect becoming marked during the second half of the year.

Western experts in Moscow predict that butchers' shelves will look abnormally bare in July, just as Moscow, host to the summer Olympic games that month, is hoping to act as the shop window for communism.

Many Russians, however, don't see it that way.

They blame the shortage of meat and many consumer goods over the past few months on the government holding back supplies so it can release them during the games to impress the foreign visitors to the Soviet Union.

Russians said that even if they have to forego meat before and after the Olympics, they believe the authorities will do anything, from hoarding what little there is to importing from abroad, to make sure butchers shops are well stocked then.

In fact, these people go so far as to think there will be plenty of meat on sale in both July and

August.

The Soviet Government has invested its prestige and millions of roubles in preparing for the games, including building a brand new terminal at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

But whatever the authorities do to alleviate the expected meat shortage in the summer and autumn, Western experts say they are sure the lack of feed grain, combined with last year's poor grain harvest of 179 million tonnes, will set back Soviet meat production plans by up to four years.

"There is no way the Soviet Union can get through 1980 without slaughtering some of its carefully built up herds," one expert said.

They have their predictions on an estimated need this year of 34 million tonnes of feed grains. With most potential suppliers pledged not to make up the shortfall, they think only some 20 million tonnes will arrive in Soviet ports.

There is no doubt this will hit Soviet meat production, but as yet there is nothing to stop Moscow importing meat from Argentina, Australia or New Zealand to make up the difference if planners think they need it.

The official reaction to the grain

embargo has been condemnation and defiance. Commentators have scorned Western predictions about its effect on Soviet food supplies.

The average Russian, who can learn the size and likely effect of the embargo only from foreign radio broadcasts, seems slow to voice anger or criticism.

"There never was much meat in the shops anyway," one young woman grumbled as she served her guests a dish of potatoes and canned vegetables.

"If things get really bad, they will bring out the grain reserves," she added with a shrug.

Her attitude is echoed by other Russians, whose biggest complaint is usually the difficulty in getting basic consumer goods and food items.

So, Russians are used to tightening their belts. Sixty years of Soviet rule punctuated by war, social turmoil and erratic harvests have taught them to be resilient.

In 1975, Soviet farmers gathered a disastrous grain harvest of 140 million tonnes. In June that year, stockbreeders began slaughtering animals they knew they would not be able to feed in the winter.

After an initial glut of meat—"I'd have done anything for

a deep freeze there was so much around," one woman recalled—it did not appear in the shops in quantity for three years.

Now, just as the planners have got their herds back to an acceptable size, they evidently face another slaughter, though on a lesser scale.

Official statistics show the Russians eat on average about 58 kilos of meat a year—far below the 82 kilos that Soviet nutritionists consider "optimum."

Western specialists predict the first signs of a pre-shortage glut will appear shortly in the shops as farmers reduce their herds for the spring. Pigs and chickens will be the first to go as they breed fastest and are easiest to replace.

The nine to 11 per cent cutback in supplies will have a sharper effect than the figures suggest, they add, because the shortage will be concentrated in the second half of the year and aggravated by hoarding.

The mere rumour of a shortage in any item is enough to ensure it disappears from the shops and that greater proportions of it are diverted to special shops for privileged customers.

Soviet meat supplies have been growing since the war—except for

the setback in 1975/76. But the real problem is that consumers' demands, fuelled by official promises to improve the diet, have far exceeded supply.

The official press provided graphic example of how far people were prepared to go to get meat when it referred to the of an unnamed butcher who caught with 500,000 roubles, 325,000 stashed away home—all from taking brisket chops cuts aside for customers.

A legal example of high can be found at the peasants' klets, where prices are fixed for veal and beef. There is no shortage of people preparing to pay up to three and a half times state price for their meat.

The peasants' markets are the pinch of the grain embargo, the senior officials of the government, party and armed who are assured of food from special shops reserved for their use.

REUTERS